



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

May 10, 2006

News Release

ICE officers arrest 120 criminal fugitives and absconders since March

HOUSTON — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers here have arrested 120 fugitive criminal aliens and immigration absconders since March.

These arrests were made under ICE's National Fugitive Operations Program (NFOP). NFOP is solely dedicated to tracking down and apprehending violent criminal aliens and alien absconders who have been ordered deported by a federal immigration judge but have failed to depart the United States.

All these criminal aliens and immigration violators are foreign nationals who have committed crimes or have violated U.S. immigration laws. These fugitives were apprehended in the Houston area; many have violent criminal histories. Following are a few case examples:



- On April 28, Roy Anthony McLaughlin, 47, a Jamaican national entered the United States as a permanent resident in 1969. McLaughlin has a lengthy wrap sheet involving crimes for possessing stolen property, larceny, possessing marijuana and cocaine, stolen property, possessing a stolen vehicle, aggravated assault, carjacking, resisting arrest, evading police and escaping from enforcement custody. An immigration judge ordered him deported Feb. 4. Fugitive Operations Teams apprehended McLaughlin inside a local Houston crack house. He was placed him into removal proceedings, and is awaiting deportation.
- Mario Alberto Jamarillo was apprehended at his Westborough, Texas, residence April 28. Jamarillo, 51, a Colombian national, was ordered deported by an immigration judge Oct. 1995 after serving a 52-month prison sentence for money laundering. He was released from custody in California on Nov. 9. He has been placed into removal proceedings.
- Roberto Aguilar, 46, a Mexican national was arrested May 3 at his Port Arthur, Texas residence. In March 1986, Mr. Aguilar was charged with attempted murder in California.

Those charges were later reduced to accessory to a felony. He received a two-year prison sentence. Aguilar illegally re-entered the United States in 1992 near San Ysidro, Calif., and was granted voluntary departure in March 1997. After failing to leave the country, an immigration court ordered him deported in absentia. Mr. Aguilar is not eligible for release and has been placed into removal proceedings.

- Fugitive operations officers apprehended Felipe Agado-Rivas, 43, a citizen of Mexico, May 5 at his Cherry St. residence in Baytown, Texas. Agado-Rivas entered the United States as an agricultural worker in 2001. He was convicted in July 2000 for numerous crimes involving possessing marijuana and cocaine. He was sentenced to six months in jail and was charged with felony convictions for both offenses. The crimes he committed render him a deportable illegal alien. An immigration judge ordered him deported in July 2001. He is currently in removal proceedings.

“NFOP’s primary mission is to identify, locate, apprehend, process and remove fugitive aliens from the United States — with the highest priority placed on those fugitives who have been convicted of crimes,” said Kenneth L. Landgrebe, the ICE field office director for the Houston area. “We will vigorously pursue individuals who are a threat to our nation’s security and to our communities.”

ICE’s National Fugitive Operations Program is part of the Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a comprehensive multi-year plan by the Department of Homeland Security to secure America’s borders and reduce illegal migration. Under SBI, Homeland Security seeks to gain operational control of both the northern and southern borders, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are removed from the country quickly and efficiently. SBI also involves strong interior enforcement efforts, including enhanced worksite enforcement investigations and intensified efforts to track down and remove illegal aliens inside this country.

ICE encourages the public to report suspicious activity by calling ICE’s toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE (1-866-347-2423).

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form the 21-century law enforcement agency with a broad responsibility of a number of key homeland security priorities.